THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) A few cases of suicides committed by students have been reported in Delhi.

(b) and (c) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed its affiliated schools to introduce Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) upto Class VIII with no pass-fail criteria upto Class V. There are no external examinations upto Class IX in the schools affiliated with CBSE.

Vacancies in State universities

2820. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 30 per cent of teaching positions in the country's Central and State universities lying vacant despite efforts by the Central Government and just 10 States have been asked to provide details of the number of teaching posts and vacancies in their colleges and universities;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for lying these posts vacant; and

(c) what are the steps and efforts being made to fill all the vacancies of teaching in both Central and State universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 1923 teaching posts out of 9261 teaching posts lying vacant in Central Universities as on 31/10/2007 (21 %). The Commission has so far collected information from 74 State Universities where 627 teaching positions are vacant as on 1/5/2007. The UGC has been advising all the Central Universities to fill up the vacant posts in Universities. It has also issued a circular (dated 23/3/2006) to all State Governments to fill up the vacant teaching posts as per norms of the Commission, because appointment of faculty on contract, part-time and as guest-faculty on long-term basis affects the quality of higher education. The Central Government has already increased the age of superannuation from 62 years to 65 years in respect of teachers of Centrally funded Technical and Higher Educational Institutions which come under the purview of Ministry of Human Resource Development to overcome the shortage of experienced teachers. The State Governments have also been requested to take similar action.

ITI National Central University

2821. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to open ITI National Central University in Orissa and in some other States;

(b) if so, what is the time-frame; and

(c) whether all universities would be opened during 2008?